

REMARKS

Applicants request reexamination and reconsideration of the present application.

The Office Action

Claims 1 – 30 are presently in the application.

While the previous arguments were noted to be persuasive, and the rejections in the previous Office Action were withdrawn, various claims have been rejected under the combinations of Okuda et al. ('703), Banker et al. ('600), Kamprath et al. ('624) and Rushing et al. ('165).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 9-12 and 29-30 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that in reviewing the file, the Office Action on July 2, 2004 stated that the drawings filed on 22 January 2002 were accepted. Applicants note the formalized versions were mailed on December 12, 2001. Applicants do not know if this discrepancy is simply when these documents reached the Examiner's desk. However it is pointed out simply for the purpose of accuracy as to when these drawings were mailed out and/or if other drawings were being addressed by this statement.

Remaining Claims of the Application are Distinguished From the Cited Art

In order to move the prosecution of the present application forward, Applicants have canceled claims 1-7.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the essential limitations of now-canceled claim 9. We have noted in the Examiner's comments that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter.

Therefore, it is submitted by Applicants claim 8 is now distinguished from the cited art.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from and further define this distinguished claim. Therefore, it is submitted these claims are also distinguished.

Again, to move the prosecution forward, claims 12-20 have been canceled from further prosecution.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to address the § 112 objection and

has incorporated the essential limitations of now-canceled claims 21 and 29. It was submitted claim 29 contained allowable subject matter (claim 29 depends from claim 25, which in turn depends from claim 21). In view of the amendment to claim 21, it is distinguished this claim is distinguished from the cited art. Other minor amendments have been made to make the claims easier to read and to avoid redundancy.

As claims 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 30, either directly or indirectly depend from distinguished claim 21, it is submitted these claims are also distinguished from the cited art.

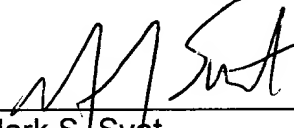
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 8, 10, 11, 21-24, 26-28 and 30) are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is therefore earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark S. Svat, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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